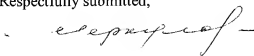


REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are currently active in the application. Claims 3, 5-13, 15, 17-20 have been amended to avoid multiple dependent claim format and make it consistent in terms used. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Please proceed to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Merkoulou', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Olga V. Merkoulou  
Reg. No. 48,757

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.  
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340  
Reston, VA 20190  
Tel. (703) 787-9400  
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No.: 30743